

SCIENCE ADVISORY BOARD
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
PUBLIC CONFERENCE CALL IN ROOM M3709
U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
401 M STREET, SW WASHINGTON, DC
APRIL 8, 1999

I. **ATTENDEES**

Dr. Joan Daisey (Chair)
Dr. Henry Anderson
Dr. Stephen Brown
Dr. Richard Bull
Dr. Kenneth Cummins
Dr. Hilary Inyang
Dr. Morton Lippmann
Dr. Joe Mauderly
Dr. W. Randall Seeker
Dr. William Smith
Dr. Terry Young

OTHERS IDENTIFIED ON THE PHONE

Dr. Costel Denson, Chair, Board of Scientific Counselors
Dr. JoAnn Lighty, Member, Environmental Engineering Comm

Mr. John Girman, USEPA
Mr. David Mudarri, USEPA

Moderator in M3709

Dr. Donald Barnes, Designated Federal Officer

Others present in Room M3709 are listed on the sign-in sheet (Attachment A). There were others who joined the call at various points throughout the meeting but did not identify themselves.

II. **Agenda**

The meeting proceeded in accord with the attached agenda (Attachment B).

III. Dr. Daisey convened the EC meeting at 12:05PM EDT.

IV. Review of Committee Reports

A. Ecological Processes and Effects Committee's *Review of the USEPA's Index of Watershed Indicators (IWI)*
(Attachment C)

Dr. Young, the EPEC Chair, introduced the report.

Dr. Lippmann, the Lead Discussant, reviewed his written comments (Attachment D) that had been sent to the DFO, Ms. Stephanie Sanzone. In summary, he found the report to be "a model", and he complimented the Committee members on their work. He was in agreement with the principal take-home message: "The IWI is a good start, but there is more work that needs to be done."

Dr. Seeker, the Associate Discussant, reviewed his written comments (Attachment E) that had been sent to the DFO. He also found the Committee's work to be excellent. He identified some areas in which the report would benefit from a bit more clarification.

ACTION 1: The Executive Committee approved the Ecological Processes and Effects Committee's *Review of the USEPA's Index of Watershed Indicators (IWI)*, subject to final editorial changes noted during the review. There is no need for additional review by the EC or by the Discussants.

B. 1. Integrated Human Exposure Committee's *Advisory on the USEPA's Draft Project Reports on Energy Cost and Indoor Air Quality Performance of Ventilation Systems and Controls* (Attachment F)

Dr. Anderson, the IHEC Chair, introduced the report.

Dr. Inyang, the Lead Discussant, reviewed his written comments (Attachment G) that had been sent to the DFO, Ms. Roslyn Edson. He found no substantive issues that would prevent approval of the Advisory.

Dr. Bull, the Associate Discussant, contributed a number of editorial suggestions, concluding that he, too, found no reason hold up approval the Advisory.

Dr. Daisey noted that the computer model used in this exercise is principally a Department of Energy (DOE) model and recommended that the Agency be encouraged to work with DOE in order to pursue some of the SAB's suggestions.

EPA's Mr. Mudarri clarified that there was no implication that adherence to ASHRAE standards necessarily equated to high indoor air quality.

Dr. Barnes noted what appeared to be a categorical statement with major risk management implications: "It is premature to use this study for the development of specific policy recommendations." The EC suggested that the language be modified to emphasize the scientific rationale that might lead the Agency to draw such a conclusion. Mr. Girman assured the EC that the

document was not intended to be the basis for policy recommendations.

Dr. Brown also submitted comments (Attachment H) that had been sent to the DFO.

ACTION 2: The Executive Committee approved the Integrated Human Exposure Committee's *Advisory on the USEPA's Draft Project Reports on Energy Cost and Indoor Air Quality Performance of Ventilation Systems and Controls*, subject to final editorial changes noted during the review. There is no need for additional review by the EC or by the Discussants.

B. 2. Integrated Human Exposure Committee's *Advisory on the USEPA's Proposed Data Analyses for the Building Assessment and Survey Evaluation (BASE) Study* (Attachment I)

Dr. Anderson, the IHEC Chair, introduced the report.

Dr. Bull, the Lead Discussant, found no substantive issues that would prevent approval of the Advisory. He suggested a number of points that addressed clarification, emphasis, and organization.

Dr. Inyang, the Associate Discussant, found no substantive issues that would prevent approval of the Advisory (see Attachment J for comments). He was in receipt of some comments from Mr. Girman regarding asthma and formaldehyde. Mr. Girman commented that these were not big issues with the Agency. The EC addressed those points.

Dr. Daisey felt that some of the criticisms of Agency activity could be interpreted as too harsh, since the state of monitoring in some instances (e.g., bioaerosols) is technique- and resource-constrained.

ACTION 3: The Executive Committee approved the Integrated Human Exposure Committee's *Advisory on the USEPA's Proposed Data Analyses for the Building Assessment and Survey Evaluation (BASE) Study*, subject to final editorial changes noted during the review. There is no need for additional review by the EC or by the Discussants.

C. Environmental Engineering Committee's *Commentary on Research on Risk Reduction Options for Particulate Matter 2.5* (Attachment K)

Dr. Lighty, Chair of the EEC Subcommittee that generated the Commentary, introduced the discussion.

Dr. Smith, the Lead Discussant, felt that the Committee was making a good point when it recommended that some risk reduction research should be conducted in parallel with the important health effects research. He made suggestions on clarity, emphasis, and organization. In addition, he noted that the issue of ecological PM effects -- both direct and indirect -- are also worthy of examination.

Dr. Mauderly, the Associate Discussant, pointed out a number of areas in the Commentary in which the discussion of the relationship between health effects and PM was not accurately or completely captured. Among the items he identified were the following:

- a. The relationship between PM and health has not risen to the level of cause-and-effect.
- b. It is not clear that all PM 2.5 emanates from sources. Some PM 2.5 may result from physical/chemical interactions of PM 2.5 precursors that emanate from sources.
- c. If there is a causative relationship between PM and health, it not clear whether that relationship is based on size *per se*, morphology, composition, and/or other factors.

In response to a question from Dr. Lippmann, Dr. Inyang elaborated on the extent of Committee interaction with the Agency program leaders and prior Committee involvement in the area.

Dr. Denson noted that the BOSC has been charged by ORD to examine how ORD is carrying out its PM research program. He would welcome the participation of an EEC liaison representative in the project.

Dr. Brown observed that the research budget is likely a zero-sum game; i.e., resources for research in risk reduction options would mean that some other research would not be done. He suggested including in the Commentary a decision theory "value of information" argument in order to support the Committee's suggestion.

ACTION 4 : The Executive Committee asked the EEC to reconsider its *Commentary on Research on Risk Reduction Options for Particulate Matter 2.5* with the possibility of 1) re-drafting the Commentary and/or 2) broadening the investigation and working with the BOSC as the latter conducts its review of the Agency's conduct of PM research.

V. Preparation for Subsequent Meetings

Dr. Barnes identified a need for another conference call in early May to consider Committee reports. In addition, he announced that the Administrator is working with her schedule in anticipation of being at the July 13-14, 1999 EC meeting.

VI. Other matters

Dr. Seeker noted that he would providing written answers to questions he has received from the Energy and Environment Subcommittee of the House Science Committee, following his testimony before the Subcommittee on March 18.

INSTRUCTION 1 : The Chair instructed Dr. Barnes to distribute the questions that have been directed to Dr. Seeker by the Energy and Environment Subcommittee of the House Science Committee. EC Members should feel free to share their thoughts with Dr. Seeker on these matters. The answers he submits to Congress will be his own comments, not those of the SAB.

With no other business to come before the EC, the meeting adjourned at 1:59 PM EDT.

Respectfully submitted,

Concurred,

Donald G. Barnes, Ph.D.
EC Designated Federal Officer


Joan M. Daisey, Ph.D.
SAB EC Chair

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